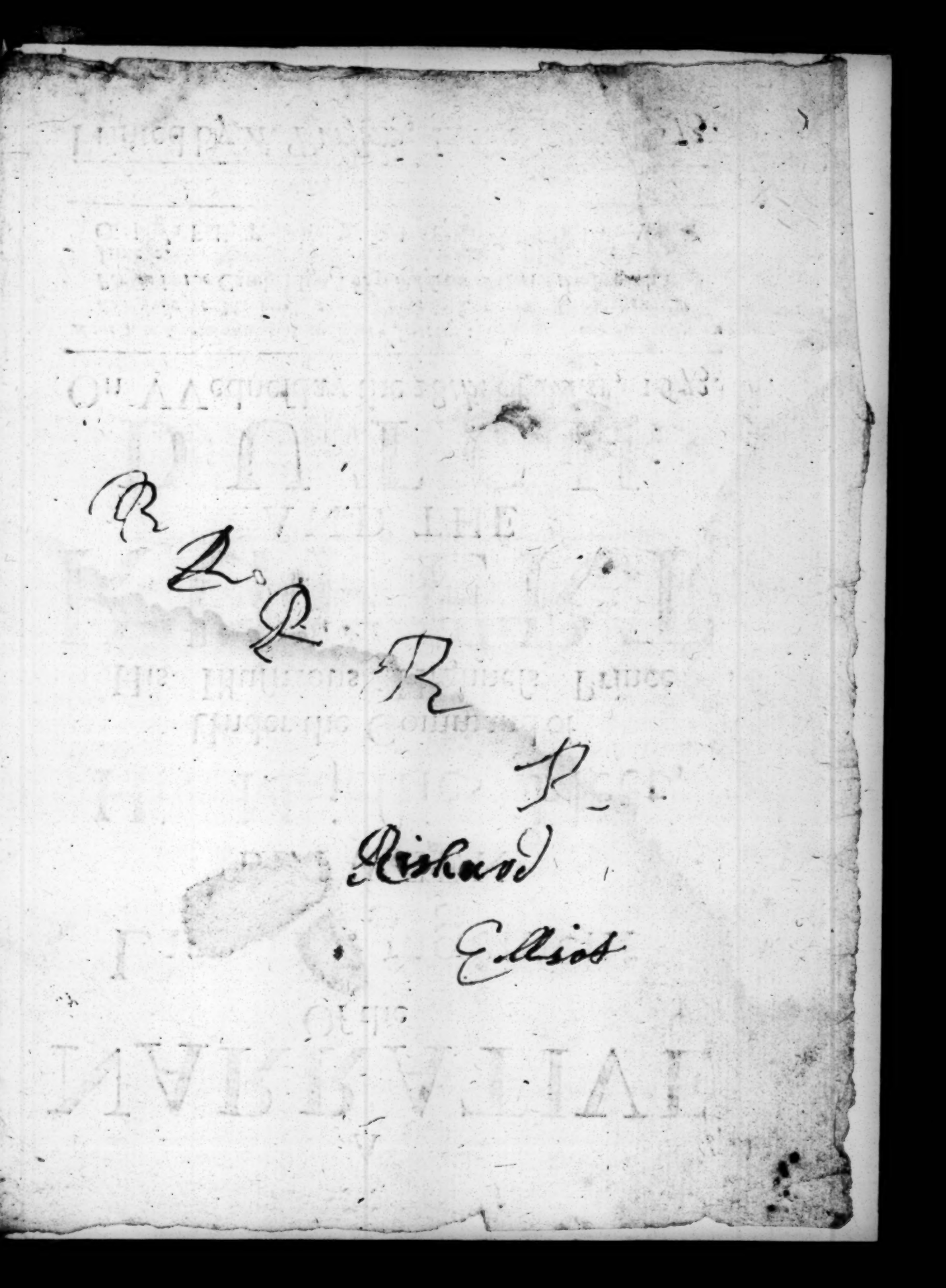
A NARRATIVE Of the Late Engagement BETWEEN His Majesties Fleet, Under the Command of His Illustrious Highness Prince RUPERT AND THE DUTCH: On VVednesday the 28th. of *May*, 1673.

As it was Communicated in Three Letters: The one from an Officer on Board the St. Michael, *to his VVife in* London. *The Second from a Person in the* Cambridge, *The third from on Board the* French Ruby June 2.
Giving a Full, True, and Perfect Account of the whole Action.

With Allowance, *June* 5.

Printed by *A. Purslow*, in the Year, 1673.



A Narrative

OR;

Account of the Late

ENGAGEMENT.

I. My Dears *My Sweet*

My Dearest Dear,

IF the Thunder of our Cannon could not at so great a distance reach your Ears, yet I doubt not but the Rumour of our being Engaged has before the Arrival of this Paper, affrighted thy kind heart with a Thousand fears; Which made me impatient, till by extraordi-

nary lu kI ſnatcht this opportunity, as we were ſending ſome wounded men on Shore, to let thee know, that through the unſpeakable mercy of a moſt Gracious God, I am eſcaped; notwithſtanding our Ship was as ſmartly Engaged as moſt in the Fleet: Not only with my life, but without any wound or prejudice received in the whole Encounter.

The *Dutch* Fleet lay at a place called *Sconvelt*, about a League and a quarter, or four Engliſh Miles from their own Shore; To whom *Van Trump* was lately come in: and thereby as neer as I can gather had made them up effectively about Seventy Sail of Men of War, Fifteen Frigats, and Twenty Fireſhips; but they ſtill with Good Reaſon apprehending themſelves too weak to Engage our Fleet (which it's no doubt is the moſt Potent and Formidable that ever ſpread Canvas on the Ocean) thought it not convenient to Fight us; and to Evade that, prudently endeavoured to ſecure themſelves behind the Sands.

Thus we lay ſome time not above two Miles off in ſight of them, and certainly never were Hungry or ~~Enraged Lions Impriſoned within a Grate~~, more fierce or eager to fall on a Prey that comes in their view, than our Generous Seamen in General were, to Grapple with this Foe that ſtill declind them, and whom we ſcarce knew how to come at.

At laſt our brave Prince, to whoſe Matchleſs Courage this Delay ſeem'd Inſupportable, Reſolved to Inforce them to a Battel: which he performed by ſending in ſeveral Fireſhips upon them. This neceſſarily obliged them to come out: and thereupon a little after Noon on Wedneſday the 28*th.* of *May*, (the very ſame day on which his Royal Highneſs fought them with ſo much Gallantry

Gallantry and Succeſs the laſt Year) the Engagement begun.

To ſay truth (how Contemptible ſoever your little wits may ſpeak of them in Coffee-Houſes) they come on very briskly, for indeed they fought with Deſperation, which we uſe to ſay, *makes any Coward Valiant* : The Fireſhips were met from each ſide, and ſpent themſelves, without doing any very remarkable Execution by each other : I know not any of our Commanders but rendred themſelves both by their Conduct and Courage, worthy of that Honour his Majeſty had confered on them : And we may ſay without Hyperbole, the World has not Laurels enough to Crown and reward the Meritorious Actions of this Day.

Our ſhip for ſome time lay almoſt ſide by ſide with a Flagſhip of the enemies, and ſeveral men we had ſlain, (though thanks be to God) none of any eminent quality. The *Cambridge*, was more fiercely and unhappily engaged, having loſt the greateſt part of her Rigging and Tackle, ſo as ſhe was neceſſitated to be Towed off by one or two French-ſhips, and is I ſuppoſe gone into *Harwich*: Captain *Tempeſt* of the *Sweepſtakes*, I hear is kil'd, and the brave Captain *Worden* of the *Henrietta*, ſo mortally wounded, that if he be not dead, the beſt Surgeons diſpair of his life. In the ſame bed of Honour, which certainly in the ſervice of ſo Juſt a Prince, in ſo good a Cauſe, is the moſt Glorious Exit any man can deſire to make out of a troubleſome world, I underſtand Captain *Fowles* of the *Lyon*, did alſo expire, and Colloncl *Hamiltons* Legg is ſhot off.

The

The Fight continued from about one a Clock till ten at night, with much fury and violence: The Enemies losses cannot but be very considerable; one great Ship of theirs to my knowledge we took, but having received very many Shots between Wind and Water, could by no means be preserved from sinking.

Another of about Fifty Eight Guns, was blown up, and as we have good cause to believe several others destroyed.

The night being coming on, they took advantage to sheer off, and get into their former Sanctuary, behind the Weilings, whither it was not thought safe for our Ships to follow them, but we have yet more Fire-ships at their Service, and still lye on their Coasts, not doubting but in short time to give a farther Accompt of them.

The Hurry we have been in, and wearisomness of the Toil I have undergone permits me not to enlarge, nor acquaint thee with any more particulars. Be confident I shall let slip no opportunity of Writing to thee, and be so kind to me, not to afflict thy self with unnecessary (because unprofitable) fears, but trust in Providence, and let this be both thy assurance, and comfort, That if I dye, it is in the Service of my King and Country, in whose Cause, though each hair of my head had a life depending on it, I would freely Sacrifie them all, and Triumph in the Oblation; And that whilst I live, I will remain,

Thy most Affectionate Husband, F. C.

From Aboard the St. Michael,
Thursday, May 29. 1673.

An

An Extract of a Letter from on Board the *CAMBRIDGE.*

WE Engaged the Dutch Fleet about 1 or 2 a Clock on Wednesday last, and continued in fight till about Nine at Night: Our Ship, by ſtreſs of Wind happened to be ſurrounded by the Enemy, and for almoſt Seven Hours ſtood the ſhock of a great part of a whole Squadron, and Two Fire-Ships, which through mercy we eſcaped: Very many of our men are kil'd, particularly our Maſter and his Mate, but our Captain and Leiutenant are well; and thanks be to God, I have received very little hurt: Our Rigging was ſo torn, Tackle ſpoild, and Ship diſabled, that we were forced to be Towed off.

The Enemy has had great loſs: We left our Fleet about Nine a Clock on Wedneſday night, in the purſuit of the Enemy.

W. S.

Soalbay off *Harwich*,
May 30. 1673.

From

From on Board the *French Ruby*: the Second of *June*.

PResuming you are acquainted before this time with moſt Particulars of our late Engagement; I ſhall not trouble you here with any further Account of it, than only to let you know; That, bleſſed be God, I am in perfect Health; and that we loſt but four men out of our Ship, and ſix wounded: That ſince Wedneſday the 28*th*. of *May*, hitherto there has happened no further Action between the two Fleets: The *Dutch* being gone ſo far in to the *Vlieilings* we can ſcarce diſcry their Maintops; and the Prince keeps his Station ſtill neer the *Oſterbank*. By a Catch lately taken by one of our Frigats, we underſtand the Enemy has loſt in this fight neer Two Thouſand men, ſix men of War Deſtroyed, and Ten more very much Diſable, beſides their Fire-Ships: If any thing extraordinary Occur for the future, you may promiſe your ſelf a faithful Account of it, with the greateſt Expedition that may be; From

Your moſt affectionate Brother:

June 2. 1673.

H. T.

FINIS.

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